



Summary of Terrorist Incidents and Counter-Terrorist Operations Worldwide July 2013



ICT
International Institute
for Counter-Terrorism
With the Support of Keren Daniel

International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)

Additional ICT resources are available on ICT's website: www.ict.org.il

Highlights

The following is a summary and analysis of the terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations that occurred during July 2013, researched and recorded by the ICT Database Team. The following are among the most important events occurring this month:

- On 6 July, suspected Boko Haram militants attacked a boarding school in Mamudo, Nigeria, killing 29 students and one teacher. In a 10-minute video message released on 13 July, Boko Haram leader Abubakr Shekau expressed his full support for the attack without actually taking responsibility for it.
- On 7 July, a series of low-intensity bombs targeted the Mahabodhi Temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bodh Gaya, India. Four explosions occurred inside the temple complex, three others targeted a nearby monastery, and one occurred near a statue of the Buddha. Two other bombs were defused. Five people were injured in the attacks, two of them monks. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks.
- On 7 July, British Home Secretary Theresa May announced that Abu Qatada had been deported to Jordan, where he faces charges of terrorism and conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts, which he denies. Jordanian authorities held Abu Qatada for 15 days at Muwaqar I, a high security prison, pending further questioning.
- On 22 July, the European Union Parliament agreed to designate the military wing of Hezbollah illegal, and to hold it responsible for terrorist attacks in Europe. Although the decision was unanimously ratified by the EU's 28 member states, actual sanctions may not be imposed immediately. The designation makes it illegal for anyone in Europe to channel money to Hezbollah, and allows the group's assets to be frozen.
- On 23 July, a team of suicide bombers and militants armed with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns attacked the Abu Ghraib and Al-Taji Prisons, located to the west and north of Baghdad, respectively. The attack spurred rioting and arson among inmates, and resulted in a large-scale jail break. According to authorities, 21 inmates and at least eight prison guards were killed, and 25 inmates and 14 guards were wounded. According to the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior, more than 500 suspected militants escaped.
- On 27 July, the Egyptian military launched a wide-scale operation against militants in the northern Sinai Peninsula, dubbed Operation Desert Storm. According to authorities, ten militants were killed and 20 were captured during the 48-hour operation, which was launched in response to the near daily attacks on security forces.

- On 30 July, Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) militants armed with mortars and grenades and disguised in police uniforms raided the central prison in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, freeing approximately 250 inmates. Twelve people were killed in the attack, but the majority of the attackers escaped. Authorities re-arrested nine escaped prisoners, and launched a manhunt for the other escapees and the attackers.

Table of Contents

Europe.....	1
Belgium.....	1
Bulgaria.....	1
Chechnya.....	1
United Kingdom.....	2
Africa.....	4
Nigeria.....	4
Somalia.....	5
Middle East.....	5
Bahrain.....	5
Egypt.....	5
Iraq.....	6
Israel and the West Bank.....	8
Yemen.....	8
North America.....	9
United States.....	9
Canada.....	9
Asia.....	10
Afghanistan.....	10
Indonesia.....	11
India.....	11
Pakistan.....	11

Europe

Belgium

On 22 July, the European Union Parliament designated the military wing of Hezbollah a terrorist organization. Although the decision was unanimously ratified by the EU's 28 member states, actual sanctions may not be imposed immediately. The designation makes it illegal for anyone in Europe to channel money to Hezbollah, and allows the group's assets to be frozen. The US, Canada, Australia, the UK and the Netherlands had previously designated all or part of Hezbollah a terrorist organization.¹ Both the US and Israel welcomed the decision. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the EU to also designate Hezbollah's political wing as a terrorist organization.²

Bulgaria

On 25 July, the Bulgarian Interior Ministry named Canadian Hassan El Hajj Hassan, 25, and Australian Meliad Farah, aka Hussein Hussein, 32, the two main suspects in the 18 July 2012 Burgas bomb attack.³ The two suspects were previously reported to be dual nationals based in Lebanon, who were allegedly seen near Burgas three weeks prior to the attack. The men reportedly rented cars and checked into hotels under the pseudonyms Brian Jeremiah Jameson, Jacque Felipe Martin and Ralph William Rico. The bomb used in the Burgas attack was similar to bombs in a weapons cache found by Israeli security forces in Nazareth a month after the attack – a key piece of evidence linking the plot to Hezbollah. The bomb used in the attack also matched bomb-making material seized by police near Bangkok in January 2012, in a probe against Atris Hussein, an alleged Lebanese-Swedish Hezbollah operative.⁴ Authorities also claimed that the suspects had smuggled the materials for the bomb from Poland, then traveled to Bulgaria from Warsaw on 28 June 2012 with the detonator and remote control device. It was Meliad Farah who allegedly assembled the bomb.⁵

Chechnya

On 3 July, Islamist rebel leader Doko Umarov urged his followers to attack the Winter Olympics, due to be held in Sochi in February 2014. In a video made some time in June and posted on the Internet, Umarov exhorted his followers to use "maximum force" to

¹ BBC, "EU ministers agree to blacklist Hezbollah's armed wing", 22 July 2013.

² AFP, "EU Foreign Ministers Blacklist Hizbullah Military Wing", 22 July 2013.

³ Globe and Mail, "Canadian suspect, 25, named in Bulgarian bus bombing", 25 July 2013.

⁴ Jerusalem Post, "Bulgaria names Hezbollah suspects behind bombing of Israeli bus in Burgas", 25 July 2013.

⁵ Haaretz, "Report: Hezbollah smuggled Burgas bomb gear from Poland". 29 July 2013.

ensure the Olympics do not take place,⁶ because of "the history of Sochi".⁷ On 8 July, Rustam Saliyev, Umarov's former bodyguard, was killed by Russian special forces in an operation in the rural Achkhoy-Martanovsky district of southwestern Chechnya.⁸

United Kingdom

On 5 July, Ayan Hadi, 31, the wife of convicted militant Richard Dart, pleaded guilty to failing to provide information that might have helped in his arrest and prosecution.⁹ In April 2013, Richard Dart and two co-conspirators, Jahangir Alom and Imran Mahmood, were sent to jail for six years for planning acts of terrorism, including some targeting the town of Royal Wootton Bassett.¹⁰ Hadi was initially also arrested with the men. She was pregnant during her first court appearance, and her lawyer asked that any trial hearing take her due date into account. According to authorities, Hadi gave birth just weeks before Dart was imprisoned;¹¹ consequently, she was granted conditional bail until her sentencing, which was set for 16 August 2013.¹²

On 7 July, British Home Secretary Theresa May announced that Abu Qatada had been deported back to Jordan, his country of origin, where he faces terrorism charges. Abu Qatada's deportation marked the conclusion of efforts to remove him from the UK, which had begun in 2001.¹³ Jordanian prosecutors formally charged Abu Qatada with conspiring to carry out terrorist attacks in Jordan against the American school in Amman in 1999, and against Israeli and American tourists and Western diplomats during New Year celebrations in 2000. In both cases, Abu Qatada was convicted in absentia and sentenced to life in prison.¹⁴ After arriving at an isolated airstrip near the Jordanian capital, Abu Qatada was driven by police escort to the heavily guarded State Security Court, where he was charged by military prosecutors with conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts. He pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.¹⁵ Jordanian authorities

⁶ Guardian, "Russian Islamist Doku Umarov calls for attacks on 2014 Winter Olympic", 3 July 2013.

⁷ New York Times, "Militant Vows to Attack Winter Olympics", 3 July 2013.

⁸ RIA Novostki, "Rebel Warlord's Bodyguard Killed in Chechnya", 8 July 2013.

⁹ BBC, "Richard Dart's wife Ayan Hadi pleads guilty", 5 July 2013.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Mail Online, "Wife of Muslim convert jailed for terrorism admits she failed to provide information which could have led to his arrest", 5 July 2013.

¹² Metropolitan Police Counter-Terrorism and Security Bulletin Issue 10, "Richard Dart's wife Ayan Hadi pleads guilty", July 2013.

¹³ BBC, "Abu Qatada deported from UK to stand trial in Jordan", 7 July 2013.

¹⁴ AP, "Deported from UK, radical Muslim cleric Abu Qatada returns to face terrorism charges in Jordan", 7 July 2013.

¹⁵ Sky News, "Abu Qatada Denies Terrorism Charges in Jordan", 8 July 2013.

ordered that Abu Qatada be held at Muwaqar I, a high security prison, pending further questioning.¹⁶

On 12 July, a suspected nail bomb exploded outside the Kanz-ul-Iman Muslim Welfare Association Central Jamia Mosque in Tipton, West Midlands. It caused no casualties or damage. Witnesses said the bomb was discovered on a wall near a disused railway line behind the mosque.¹⁷ West Midlands Police arrested two men, ages 25 and 22, who were suspected of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism. They were also suspected of participating in the bombing of the Aisha Mosque and Islamic Centre in Walsall in June 2013.¹⁸

On 12 July, a suspected nail bomb exploded outside the Kanz-ul-Iman Muslim Welfare Association Central Jamia Mosque in Tipton, West Midlands. It caused no casualties or damage. Witnesses said the bomb was discovered on a wall near a disused railway line behind the mosque.¹⁹ West Midlands Police arrested two men, ages 25 and 22, who were suspected of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism. They were also suspected of participating in the bombing of the Aisha Mosque and Islamic Centre in Walsall in June 2013.²⁰

On 15 July, Mohammed Benares, 45, was sentenced to four years in prison for possessing issues of Al-Qaeda's English-language *Inspire* magazine, which contained guidelines for bomb-making.²¹ Authorities found 60 copies of *Inspire* and 39 copies of "Ways to Serve and Participate in Jihad" among Benares' possession.²² Benares claimed he was not an extremist, and explained that he was merely curious about both moderate and radical Islam, and had gathered the information so he could refute arguments about extremism. The court demurred.²³ Benares, who had worked for the Royal Mail in Birmingham, was originally arrested in March 2013 and convicted in June 2013. Police analysis of Benares' mobile phone revealed that Benares had also exchanged text messages with radical Islamist preachers Anjem Choudary and Abu Izzadeen, and had

¹⁶ AFP, "Jordan charges Islamist cleric Abu Qatada with terrorism: Judicial official", 7 July 2013.

¹⁷ Independent, "Counter-terror police investigate 'nail bomb' near Tipton mosque hours after Woolwich soldier Lee Rigby's funeral", 12 July 2013.

¹⁸ Reuters, "Police arrest two men over blasts at British mosques", 18 July 2013.

¹⁹ Independent, "Counter-terror police investigate 'nail bomb' near Tipton mosque hours after Woolwich soldier Lee Rigby's funeral", 12 July 2013.

²⁰ Reuters, "Police arrest two men over blasts at British mosques", 18 July 2013.

²¹ BBC, "Mohammed Benares jailed over terror downloads", 15 July 2013.

²² Birmingham Post, "Postal worker jailed after downloading terrorist guides", 15 July 2013.

²³ Telegraph, "Royal Mail worker jailed for terrorism offences", 15 July 2013.

attended a "Muslims against Crusades" protest in central London on 11 September 2010.²⁴

Africa

Nigeria

On 6 July, suspected Boko Haram militants attacked a boarding school in Mamudo, Yobe State, killing 29 students and one teacher. According to authorities, the attack began at approximately 3:00 a.m., when staff and students were sleeping. Witnesses said that during the assault, the militants marched students and staff into a dormitory and hurled explosive devices into the room with them. They then opened fire on the building and set it alight.²⁵ Authorities said that hundreds of children from the 1,200-student school, who apparently escaped into nearby a forest, were still unaccounted for.²⁶ Authorities suspected that the attack was a reprisal for the killing of 22 Boko Haram members during a military raid in the town of Dogon Kuka on 1 July 2013. Following the attack, Yobe State governor Ibrahim Gaidam ordered that all secondary schools be closed until the start of the academic year in September 2013. This was the third attack on a school in northeastern Nigeria in recent weeks, and the second to occur in Yobe State. The European Union condemned the attack.²⁷ In a 10-minute video message released on 13 July, Boko Haram leader Abubakr Shekau expressed full support for the attack without actually taking responsibility for it. Authorities nevertheless suspected that Boko Haram was responsible. No arrests were made.²⁸

On 29 July, multiple explosions in Kano, in the predominately Christian and Igbo Sabon Gari district,²⁹ killed 15 people.³⁰ Sabon Gari is filled with outdoor bars and cafes. The first explosion occurred near the International Hotel at approximately 9:00 p.m., and the second followed several minutes later.³¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but authorities blamed Boko Haram.³²

²⁴ BBC, "Mohammed Benares jailed over terror downloads", 15 July 2013.

²⁵ Telegraph, "Telegraph, "Extremist attack in Nigeria kills 42 at boarding school", 6 July 2013.

²⁶ AP, "Nigerian terror group attack kills 29 children", 7 July 2013.

²⁷ Independent, "Nigeria massacre: Boko Haram Islamists kill 42 at boarding school in Yobe state", 8 July 2013.

²⁸ AFP, "Boko Haram leader 'supports' Nigeria school massacre", 13 July 2013.

²⁹ Reuters, "Police: Bombs Kill 15 in Nigeria's Kano", 29 July 2013.

³⁰ AllAfrica.com, "Multiple Blasts Hit Nigeria's Kano", 29 July 2013.

³¹ Vanguard, "Multiple Blasts Hit Nigeria's Kano", 30 July 2013.

³² Reuters, "Police: Bombs Kill 15 in Nigeria's Kano", 29 July 2013.

Somalia

On 27 July, a suicide car bomber targeted employees of the Turkish embassy in Mogadishu, killing one Somali civilian and injuring two Turkish guards.³³ The booby-trapped car followed another car into the embassy compound, then detonated the explosives. The Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Shabab Al-Mujahedeen took responsibility for the attack, which it claimed was motivated by Turkey's support of the Somali government and opposition to Islamic law [shari'a]. The group has targeted Turkish institutions in the past.³⁴

Middle East

Bahrain

On 18 July, a car bomb exploded in the parking lot outside the Isa bin Salman Mosque near the royal palace complex.³⁵ There were no casualties and no group claimed responsibility for the attack.³⁶ According to authorities, the bomb was made from a gas cylinder placed inside a parked vehicle. The attack was condemned by the main Shi'ite opposition group, Wefaq, as well as by King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa and government officials.³⁷

Egypt

On 27 July, the Egyptian Army, Navy and Air Force launched a broad-scale operation aimed at eliminating terrorist activity in the northern Sinai Peninsula, dubbed Operation Desert Storm. According to Egyptian authorities, some 500 armed extremists were active in the Sinai.³⁸ Ten militants were killed and 20 were captured during the 48-hour operation,³⁹ which was a response to the almost daily attacks on security forces, including a 24 July attack by unknown gunmen on the city's police station and radio building.⁴⁰ In that attack, the assailants randomly opened fire on the police station, and also launched a rocket-propelled grenade at it. One soldier was killed while fighting off

³³UPI, "Deadly bombing targets Turkish diplomats in Somalia", 27 July 2013.

³⁴ Reuters, "Police: 6 killed in attack on Turkish embassy in Somalia", 27 July 2013.

³⁵ PTI, "Bahrain rattled by bombing near royal palaces", 18 July 2013.

³⁶ Reuters, "Car bomb explodes near mosque in Bahrain", 18 July 2013.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Times of Israel, "Egyptian military launches major Sinai offensive", 27 July 2013.

³⁹ Ynet, "Report: 10 gunmen killed in 'Operation Desert Storm' in Sinai", 27 July 2013.

⁴⁰ Jerusalem post, "Egypt army launches Sinai operation to root out terrorists", 27 July 2013.

the militants who attacked the northern Sinai's radio building, and one policeman was wounded.⁴¹

Iraq

On 1 July, 22 people were killed in a suicide bombing attack that targeted a Shi'ite mosque in Muqdadiyah⁴² during a funeral for a police officer who had been killed by a roadside bomb several days earlier. The explosion caused structural damage to the mosque, trapping many people in the rubble. A separate explosion that targeted a cafe in Baquba killed at least eight people and wounded 20 others.⁴³ No group claimed responsibility but authorities suspected the Islamic State of Iraq.⁴⁴

On 2 July, 43 people were killed and approximately 50 others were injured in bombings throughout Iraq. The majority of attacks occurred in Baghdad, where nine explosions targeted busy Shi'ite market and commercial areas, killing over 30 people. In the most serious attack, nine people were killed when twin car bombs detonated in the northern Shaab District.⁴⁵ In Basra, Amara and Samawa, car bombs killed three people and injured 50 others. Four people were killed when a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt inside a tent where a funeral was taking place in Baquba.⁴⁶ In a separate incident, eight members of the Awakening Council were kidnapped and later were later shot to death north of Baghdad.⁴⁷

On 12 July, a bomb exploded at cafe in Kirkuk, killing 38 people and injuring 26 others.⁴⁸ Authorities said the suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest as customers were playing Mahaibes, a game common among Iraqis during Ramadan.⁴⁹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed the Islamic State of Iraq, an Al-Qaeda affiliate.⁵⁰

On 14 July, a series of coordinated bombings targeting Shi'ite communities just before the evening *iftar* meal that ends the daylong Ramadan fast killed 38 people and

⁴¹ AllAfrica, "Egypt: Sinai Attack Leaves Police Sergeant and Army Recruit Injured", 24 July 2013.

⁴² Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 22 in Iraqi Shi'ite mosque", 1 July 2013.

⁴³ BBC, "Suicide bomber targets Iraq Shia mosque killing 22", 1 July 2013.

⁴⁴ Reuters, "Suicide bomber kills 22 in Iraqi Shi'ite mosque", 1 July 2013.

⁴⁵ Reuters, "Bomb blasts leave at least 43 dead in Iraq", 3 July 2013.

⁴⁶ BBC, "Wave of bombings across Iraq kill dozens", 2 July 2013.

⁴⁷ CNN, "23 die in suicide bombings in Iraq", 2 July 2013.

⁴⁸ BBC, "Iraqi city of Kirkuk hit by deadly bomb attack", 12 July 2013.

⁴⁹ CNN, "Suicide bomber kills 33 as Iraqis play Ramadan game in Kirkuk café", 12 July 2013.

⁵⁰ AP, "More than 30 dead in cafe bomb attack in Iraqi city of Kirkuk", 13 July 2013.

wounded 60 others.⁵¹ The worst of the attacks occurred in Basra: A car bomb killed eight people and wounded 15 others; minutes later, a second bomb went off near an office of a Shi'ite political party. A car bomb also exploded in Kut, in an area filled with restaurants and shops, killing five people and wounding 35 others. Police reported that additional car bombs killed four people in a commercial area of the Shi'ite holy city of Karbala, five people near an outdoor market in Nasiriyah, and six people near a Shi'ite mosque in Musayyib. A roadside bomb planted on a commercial street in the southern Baghdad neighborhood of Dora killed four people and wounded 16 others. In Mosul, gunmen killed two soldiers at a security checkpoint; several hours later, a roadside bomb killed a municipal council member and his son in a nearby town. A roadside bomb near a restaurant northwest of Baquba killed two people and wounded three other.⁵² No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but authorities blamed the Islamic State of Iraq.⁵³

On 19 July, a bomb hidden in an air conditioning unit exploded inside the Abu Bakir al-Sideeq Mosque in Wijaihiya, killing 26 people and wounding 50 others, the majority of whom had been engaged in prayer. The bomb also damaged the inside of the mosque. No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but authorities blamed the Islamic State of Iraq.⁵⁴

On 23 July, militants armed with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and explosive belts attacked the Abu Ghraib and Al-Taji Prisons, west and north of Baghdad, respectively. Following the attack inmates rioted and torched the prisons, resulting in a large-scale jail break. The operation involved 12 car bombs, a military-style barrage of rockets and missiles, and suicide bombers, and was aided by prisoners who had managed to smuggle weapons into the prisons. According to authorities, 21 inmates and at least eight prison guards were killed, and 25 inmates and 14 guards were wounded.⁵⁵ At least 25 members of the Iraqi security forces were also killed, along with 10 militants.⁵⁶ Some Iraqi officials claimed that more than 500 of the thousands of militants detained in these prisons had escaped.⁵⁷ The attacks were significant not only because they "liberated" prisoners, but also because they proved the growing capability of the Islamic State of Iraq and its affiliates. The attacks were meticulously planned and

⁵¹ AP, "Iraq Bombing Wave Kills At Least 38", 15 July 2013.

⁵² BBC, "Iraq cities targeted in deadly bomb attacks", 14 July 2013.

⁵³ AFP, "Attacks including series of bombings kill 33 in Iraq", 15 July 2013.

⁵⁴ CNN, "Militant group claims responsibility for Iraq prison attacks", 24 July 2013.

⁵⁵ CNN, "Militant group claims responsibility for Iraq prison attacks", 24 July 2013.

⁵⁶ Guardian, "Al-Qaida raids on Iraqi prisons raise fears of return to civil war", 23 July 2013.

⁵⁷ Reuters, "Al Qaeda says it freed 500 inmates in Iraq jail-break", 23 July 2013.

synchronized: The militants used mortars to target Iraqi forces, employed suicide bombers to distract prison guards, and then sent in assault forces to free the inmates. It is also notable that these attacks targeted two of the most secured sites in Iraq, which are guarded by a large number of security forces.⁵⁸ The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant took responsibility for the attack.⁵⁹

On 29 July, a series of attacks throughout Iraq killed 60 people⁶⁰ and wounded 200 others.⁶¹ Police reported that 17 explosions targeted towns and cities in the Shi'ite-dominated south of the country, as well as Shi'ite districts of Baghdad. In Sadr City, a minivan approached a group of men waiting by the side of the road for day work. The driver ordered them to get in before detonating an explosive device in the vehicle. In another incident, at least 10 people were killed when two car bombs exploded near a bus station in Kut. Four others were killed in Mahmoudiya, and two bombs in Samawa killed two people. Other bombings took place in the Habibiya, Hurriya, Bayaa, Ur, Shurta, Kadhimiya, Risala, Tobchi and Abu Dsheer districts of Baghdad.⁶² No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but authorities blamed the Islamic State of Iraq.⁶³

Israel and the West Bank

On 8 July, Hichmat Masawary, an Israeli Arab, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for joining rebels in Syria. According to court documents, Masawary entered Syria from Turkey, where he had first spent six days training with rebels. The Syrian rebels asked Masawary for information about Israel's nuclear reactor and the weapons Israeli soldiers use in the West Bank. He was also asked to carry out a suicide attack – but refused. Masawary claimed he had gone to find his brother, who had allegedly preceded him to Syria to join the rebels. His brother's whereabouts remain unknown.⁶⁴

Yemen

On 17 July, a video statement prepared by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) confirmed that Said al-Shihri, the group's deputy commander, had been killed in a US drone strike.⁶⁵ Senior AQAP official Ibrahim al-Rubaish did not cite the details or location

⁵⁸ New York Times, "Brazen Attacks at Prisons Raise Worries of Al Qaeda's Strength in Iraq", 23 July 2013.

⁵⁹ CNN, "Militant group claims responsibility for Iraq prison attacks", 24 July 2013.

⁶⁰ Reuters, "60 dead in Iraq as wave of attacks targets Shi'ites", 29 July 2013.

⁶¹ BBC, "Iraq violence: Wave of deadly car bombs targets Shias", 29 July 2013.

⁶² Reuters, "60 dead in Iraq as wave of attacks targets Shi'ites", 29 July 2013.

⁶³ AP, "Car bomb attacks across Iraq kill 58, mostly in Shia areas", 29 July 2013.

⁶⁴ AP, "Israeli sentenced for joining rebels in Syria", 8 July 2013.

⁶⁵ Reuters, "Arabian al Qaeda's number two confirmed dead – AQAP", 17 July 2013.

of the attack on al-Shihri, who had earlier been imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay; it is typical for few details to be known of alleged US drone strikes in Yemen.⁶⁶ Al-Shihri's death had been reported four times in the past, but this was the first time that AQAP had confirmed his death.⁶⁷ For example, in January 2013, Yemeni officials reported that al-Shihri was killed during a military operation. If indeed al-Shihri has been killed, he would be one of the highest-ranking AQAP officials to have been felled by a US drone strike.⁶⁸

On 27 July, a drone strike killed six suspected Al-Qaeda militants in Abyan Governorate. The six suspects were travelling in a two-vehicle convoy in the Mahfad mountains. Following this incident, on 30 July, a suspected US drone strike killed two Yemeni militants and a Saudi militant. The strike targeted two vehicles on the road between Al-Aram and Al-Saeed in Shabwa.⁶⁹

North America

United States

On 19 July, federal law enforcement officials in Manhattan charged militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar in absentia with masterminding the gas field attack in Algeria in January 2013.⁷⁰ The charges included conspiring to support Al-Qaeda, using a weapon of mass destruction, discharging a firearm, and carrying an explosive. Additional charges of conspiring to take hostages and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence carry a maximum penalty of death.⁷¹ Authorities also said a \$5 million reward was being offered for information leading to the arrest of Belmokhtar.⁷²

Canada

On 2 July, John Nuttall and Amanda Korody, who were allegedly inspired by Al-Qaeda, were arrested by police in Canada for a plotting to plant pressure-cooker bombs at British Columbia's provincial legislature headquarters on Canada Day (1 July). Thousands of people were expected to be on the scene when the bombs would have exploded. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), who have been tracking the suspects

⁶⁶ AP, "Al-Qaida branch says No. 2 leader killed in Yemen", 17 July 2013.

⁶⁷ Times Online, "Al-Qaeda confirms drone death of terror leader Said al-Shehri", 17 July 2013.

⁶⁸ Al Arabiya, "Al-Qaeda in Yemen confirms second-in-command killed by drone", 17 July 2013.

⁶⁹ AFP, "Al-Qaeda suspects in Yemen killed in U.S. drone strike", 27 July 2013.

⁷⁰ AP, "Suspect linked to al-Qaida in Africa branch is charged in Algeria attack; \$5M reward offered", 19 July 2013.

⁷¹ FBI, "Charges Filed in Manhattan Federal Court Against Mokhtar Belmokhtar for His Role in Terror Attack in Algeria and Other Crimes", 19 July 2013.

⁷² Epoch Times, "Mokhtar Belmokhtar Charged by FBI for Deadly Gas Plant Attack in Algeria", 19 July 2013.

since February 2013, arrested the pair in Abbotsford, British Columbia. RCMP Assistant Commissioner James Malizia called the alleged plot a domestic threat with no international connections. Authorities added that they had no evidence to suggest that the suspects had any ties to the April 2013 Boston Marathon attack, despite similarities in modus operandi. RCMP Superintendent Wayne Rideout said the public had never been at risk, as the threat was detected early.⁷³ The suspects were charged with conspiracy, facilitating a terrorist activity, and making an explosive device. Nuttall and Korody made a brief court appearance during their bail hearing on 9 July.⁷⁴ If convicted, the suspects face life in prison.⁷⁵

Asia

Afghanistan

On 2 July, seven people were killed when five suicide attackers stormed a compound housing NATO suppliers in Kabul. They first detonated a truck bomb, and then exchanged gunfire for 30 minutes with security forces.⁷⁶ Five guards, four of them Nepali, were among those killed in the attack.⁷⁷ Authorities recovered suicide vests at the scene.⁷⁸ The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷⁹

On 4 July, Lieutenant Islam Bibi, 37, a senior female police officer, was shot dead in Helmand Province. Lt. Bibi was ambushed by unknown attackers as she left her home in the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah.⁸⁰ According to authorities, Bibi was seriously wounded in the attack and later died of her wounds. Her son, who was driving her, was also injured.⁸¹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but the authorities blamed the Taliban.⁸² In a separate attack on 4 July, four girls ages seven-12 were killed when a roadside bomb exploded as they were attending a wedding in Lashkar Gah. The girls had gone to collect water from a stream when the bomb exploded. According to authorities, civilian casualties have recently increased in the south, many of them due to militants' use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).⁸³

⁷³ AP, "Canadian police foil alleged terrorism attempt", 2 July 2013.

⁷⁴ Washington Times, "Canada police foil al-Qaeda-inspired bomb plot", 2 July 2013.

⁷⁵ Huffington Post, "John Nuttall, Amanda Korody, Canada Day Terror Suspects' Court Hearing Adjourned", 3 July 2013.

⁷⁶ CNN, "7 dead after Taliban attack on NATO suppliers' compound in Kabul", 7 July 2013.

⁷⁷ BBC, "Suicide attack on Nato supply firm in Kabul", 2 July 2013.

⁷⁸ VOA, "7 Killed in Afghan Attack", 7 July 2013.

⁷⁹ CNN, "7 dead after Taliban attack on NATO suppliers' compound in Kabul", 7 July 2013.

⁸⁰ BBC, "Top Afghanistan female police officer killed", 4 July 2013.

⁸¹ VOA, "Female role model shot dead in street", 5 July 2013.

⁸² UPI, "Woman police lieutenant killed in Afghanistan", 4 July 2013.

⁸³ BBC, "Suicide attack on Nato supply firm in Kabul", 2 July 2013.

On 9 July in Heart Province, a roadside bomb killed 19 people, six of them children and many of them from the same family; the bomb also wounded seven others.⁸⁴ The bomb was placed near a motorcycle-drawn trailer that was transporting civilians. Authorities suspected the militants had attempted to target soldiers, but the bomb detonated prematurely.⁸⁵

Indonesia

On 22 July, Indonesian police fatally shot two militants armed with a homemade bomb. Authorities also arrested two other militants in Tulungagung, East Java, after days of surveillance.⁸⁶ Indonesia's counter-terrorism chief Ansyad Mbai said the men were part of a violent Islamist group and were suspected of being tied to an attempted suicide bombing on a police compound in Poso in June 2013, the first suicide attack in Indonesia since September 2011. Police said the suicide bomber was affiliated with Santoso, Indonesia's most wanted militant.⁸⁷

India

On 7 July, a series of low-intensity bombs targeted the Mahabodhi Temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bodh Gaya.⁸⁸ The temple is one of Buddhism's holiest sites. Four explosions occurred inside the temple complex, three others targeted a nearby monastery, and one bomb exploded near a statue of the Buddha. Two other bombs were defused. Five people, two of them monks, were injured in the attack.⁸⁹ Senior police officer S.K. Bhardwaj said that no structural damage was caused to the temple, but a gate leading to the temple had been damaged. Although police had not received any warning prior to the attack, they had voiced their concern that the holy site might be targeted by militants who sought revenge for Buddhist violence against Muslims in neighboring Myanmar.⁹⁰ No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities suspected the Indian Mujahedeen.⁹¹

Pakistan

On 1 July, as British Prime Minister David Cameron called for tough action against terrorism during a visit to Islamabad, a series of attacks throughout Pakistan killed 20

⁸⁴ CNN, "19 killed in roadside bombing in Afghanistan", 9 July 2013.

⁸⁵ BBC, "17 killed in Afghan bomb blast", 9 July 2013.

⁸⁶ AFP, "Terrorist suspects shot dead in Indonesia", 22 July 2013.

⁸⁷ AP, "Indonesian police kill 2 militants in shootout", 22 July 2013.

⁸⁸ AFP, "Series of Explosions Rocks Buddhist Temple in India", 7 July 2013.

⁸⁹ New York Times, "Bomb Blasts at India's Buddhist Mecca in Bihar", 7 July 2013.

⁹⁰ AFP, "Bomb blasts at Bodh Gaya Buddhist temple complex, two monks hurt", 10 July 2013.

⁹¹ CNN, "2 hurt in blasts at one of Buddhism's holiest sites in India", 7 July 2013.

people and wounded approximately 70 others.⁹² In one incident, a suicide bomber killed more than 28 people and injured 51 others at a checkpoint near a Shi'ite Muslim mosque in Quetta. In a separate event, a car bomb killed 17 people in Peshawar. Authorities estimated that a police convoy had been the target of the attack; however, the explosion destroyed a nearby market, killing mainly civilians, including some children.⁹³ In addition, two roadside bombs in the Waziristan tribal region killed eight people, four of them security personnel traveling from Bannu to the town of Miran Shah. All of the other casualties were civilians.⁹⁴ Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), a Sunni militant group, claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁹⁵

On 3 July, a suspected US drone strike killed 16 people and wounded five others in Sarai Darpa Khel village, in North Waziristan Province.⁹⁶ Authorities said two missiles hit a house near the main market in Miran Shah, the provincial capital. The region is considered a Taliban stronghold. According to authorities, the drone targeted a suspected Haqqani Network compound.⁹⁷

On 6 July, a bomb exploded near the patio of a restaurant in the Old Anarkali area of Lahore, killing five people, including a six-year-old child, and wounding 50 others, many of them seriously.⁹⁸ A preliminary police investigation revealed that a timing device had been placed between chairs, and the bomb itself – which apparently comprised 500g of explosives and ball bearings, for maximum impact – was hidden in a polythene bag placed beneath a deep freezer on the footpath⁹⁹ to the Bokhara Restaurant. The bomb created a crater one foot deep and also damaged nearby cars and buildings and an electricity transformer. At the time of the explosion, the patio was filled to capacity. Authorities heightened security at checkpoints around the city and detained seven senior members of banned groups for questioning. The militant Baloch Liberation Tigers, led by Meeran Baloch, claimed responsibility for the attack in phone calls made to Balochistan media and police.¹⁰⁰

⁹² CNN, "Day of violence leaves at least 47 dead in Pakistan", 2 July 2013.

⁹³ AFP, "Terrorist attacks kill dozens as British PM David Cameron visits Pakistan", 1 July 2013.

⁹⁴ BBC, "Quetta mourns after deadly day in Pakistan", 1 July 2013.

⁹⁵ DW, "Pakistani Shiites under attack", 1 July 2013.

⁹⁶ New York Times, "U.S. Drone Strike in Pakistan Kills at Least 16", 3 July 2013.

⁹⁷ Sky News, "US Drone Strike Kills 18 In Pakistan", 3 July 2013.

⁹⁸ DAWN, "Blast in Lahore's old Anarkali area kills five, 50 injured", 6 July 2013.

⁹⁹ International Herald Tribune, "Lahore bomb blast kills three, injures 40", 6 July 2013.

¹⁰⁰ BBC, "Pakistan bomb kills four in Lahore restaurant district", 7 July 2013.

On 10 July, the chief security officer of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari was killed in a targeted suicide attack in Karachi. Approximately 12 others were injured in the attack.¹⁰¹ According to authorities, an unidentified attacker walked up to a white armored car in the president's cortege and blew himself up just as the security officer opened the door to get out. The attack occurred near the offices of Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The security chief had also been responsible for the safety of Zardari's son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.¹⁰² No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities blamed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).¹⁰³

On 26 July, a twin bombing killed 57 people and injured 167 others at the main marketplace in Parachinar.¹⁰⁴ Approximately 12 cars and several shops were also destroyed in the explosions. There were conflicting reports as to whether the attackers used a timed device to detonate the bombs, or blew themselves up wearing explosive belts. Said Hussain, a witness, reported seeing a teenage boy shout "God is great!" moments before the explosion.¹⁰⁵ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁰⁶

On 30 July, Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) militants dressed in police uniforms and armed with mortars and grenades raided the central prison in Dera Ismail Khan, freeing approximately 250 inmates.¹⁰⁷ As a result of the attack, 12 people were killed, including policemen, Shiite prisoners, and civilians. One of the Shi'ites was decapitated. Fifteen policemen were wounded in the attack. The majority of attackers escaped. In a subsequent manhunt, authorities arrested nine escaped prisoners, and were searching for others, as well as for the attackers.¹⁰⁸ The incident began with a large explosion, followed by a series of smaller bombs which the attackers used to destroy the prison's boundary wall. Security forces engaged the attackers, who were chanting "God is great" and "long live the Taliban" in Arabic.¹⁰⁹ The assault on the prison took place despite reports that regional officials had received intelligence suggesting such an attack was imminent.¹¹⁰ Officials blamed a combination of negligence and poor communication among Pakistan's many security agencies, but some suggested there may have been a

¹⁰¹ BBC, "Pakistan bomb kills Zardari security chief", 10 July 2013.

¹⁰² Reuters, "Zardari security chief killed in Karachi after 'suicide attack' on his convoy", 10 July 2013.

¹⁰³ DAWN, "Bomb kills Zardari's security chief, two others in Karachi", 10 July 2013.

¹⁰⁴ DAWN, "Twin explosions in main Parachinar market kill 39", 26 July 2013.

¹⁰⁵ Huffington Post, "Pakistan Market Bombing Kills Dozens In Tribal Town Of Parachinar", 26 July 2013.

¹⁰⁶ AFP, "Multiple blasts in Parachinar kill 50, injure 122", 26 July 2013.

¹⁰⁷ BBC, "Pakistan jailbreak: Taliban free 248 in Dera Ismail Khan", 30 July 2013.

¹⁰⁸ AP, "Taliban attack Pakistan prison", 30 July 2013.

¹⁰⁹ Al-Jazeera, "Pakistan Taliban prison raid frees hundreds", 30 July 2013.

¹¹⁰ BBC, "Pakistan jailbreak: Taliban free 248 in Dera Ismail Khan", 30 July 2013.

degree of insider help. Only about 70 of the 200 prison guards who were meant to be on duty were actually present at the time of the attack.¹¹¹ No high-profile Taliban members were being held at the prison, but approximately 30 militants freed in the assault were described by the authorities as "hardened" Taliban militants. The TTP claimed responsibility for the attack.¹¹²

¹¹¹Reuters, "Mass jail break in Pakistan as Taliban gunmen storm prison", 30 July 2013.

¹¹² AP, "Taliban attack Pakistan prison", 30 July 2013.